(c) and (d) Enrolment and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process and is made under the annual enrolment programme of the oil industry determined by augmentation in availability of LPG, bottling capacity, transportation, arrangements and other infrastructure.

Industrial stagnation

2568. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI RAMAKRISHNA MAZUMDER :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that industrial stagnation has of late set in, in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) According to C.S.O. Index of Industrial Production, the rates of growth in industrial production during the last few years have been as under :—

1980-81	4.0%
1981-82	8.6%
1982-83	4.1%
1983-84	6.1%
1984-85	6.8%
1985-86	6.2%
1986-87 .. .. (April-August)	5.7%

Government have been taking a number of steps to stimulate industrial production through appropriate changes in industrial licensing and import policies as well as through monetary and fiscal measures and improvement in infrastructure.

Conference of Federation of Association of Small Industries of India

2569. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether at a recent Conference held on September 18, 1986 under the auspices of the Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India (F.A.S.I.I.), a number of problems now being faced by the small scale industries were placed before the Prime Minister, who attended the said conference; and

(b) if so, what follow-up action has been taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : A National Convention on Small Scale Industries which was organised by the Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India (FASII) in Delhi on the 17th September, 1986 was also addressed by the Prime Minister. In the course of deliberations various aspects of small industries development such as upgradation of technology, modernisation, quality control, supply of raw materials, marketing, exports, etc. were discussed.

(b) The developments in the small scale industries sector are kept under constant review and suitable measures are taken by the Government from time to time to meet the felt needs of this sector.

Revised date of completion of the mining Projects

2570. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Ques-

tion 131 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st July, 1986 and state the re-scheduled dates for the completion of each of the eight mining projects which are lagging behind the schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : The re-scheduled dates for the completion of each of the eight mining projects which are lagging behind the schedule are given below :—

S. No.	*Name of project*	*Anticipated date of completion*
1.	Khottadih Underground	1991-92
2.	Seetalpur Underground	1989-90
3.	J. K. Nagar Underground	1989-90
4.	Parbelia Underground	1989-90
5.	Bankola Underground	1987-88
6.	North Searsole Underground	1992-93
7.	Satgram Underground	1992-93
8.	Ratibati Underground	1988-89

Ocean Thermal Energy Plant

2571. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government propose to set up the National Front Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Plant at Kavaratti Island; and

(b) if so, what are the details regarding the cost of the plant and the time by when the plant is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) A detailed feasibility report for setting up of a 1 MW OTEC plant at Lakshadweep was commissioned through M/s. MECON [Metallurgical Engg. Consultants (India) Ltd. Ranchi] a public sector consultancy organisation. The estimated capital cost of Rs. 30 crores was considered too high even for a pilot plant. Different alternatives are, therefore, being examined to reduce the initial capital cost of enable a final decision in the matter.

Tuticorin Thermal Plant Complex

2572. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India have accepted the proposed of the Government of Tamil Nadu to set up a 420 MW station at the Tuticorin Thermal plant complex; and

(b) on what conditions the approval to set up the plant was sought by the State Government of Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) The proposal of the Government of Tamil Nadu to set up a 420 MW (2×210MW) Thermal Station, as an extension to the existing Tuticorin Thermal Plant, based on indigenous coal, was approved in June, 1985 for implementation by the Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board under the State's Seventh Plan Programme. The Tamil Nadu authorities have now proposed to set up the Station in the joint sector, based on import of coal. The modified project report can be techno-economically appraised by the Central Electricity Authority after it is submitted by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

Licences to produce Paraxylene

2573. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) how many licences have been issued in 1983-84 and 1984-85 and upto June in 1986 for manufacture of Paraxylene and Benzene to private or public sector Projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that IPCL and Bongaigaon Refineries have obtained licences to produce paraxylene and if so, what is the capacity permitted; and